tributes, and other emoluments of his sovereignty
was content with a much lighter hold than the
centralising and highly-organised government of
Constantinople excretacd elsewhere in Italy and
the Empire.

Many circumstances seemed t<j favour it long
continuance of Byzantine power in Lower Italy,
The commercial influences hinding the province
to the Empire were all-compelling. The "Orien-
tation[11] of the southern peninsula was then and
for two centuries yet a decisive fact; tht« facts of
the Apuluin coast-land was turned eastward, and
the towns from Siponto round to Taranto hud
more to do with the eastern Adriatic than with
the western parts of Italy from which the great
central mountain« divided them, Hari wns im-
portant its being the great depot, for the silks,
precious iitufts, and other articles of luxury which
were to be got only from Orcm*; HrimlLsi again,
stitndtrtg on the jimctum of tho two Komun roatls
the Via Trajana antl Via Appia, was *In* easy touch
with DuriKSttj, From nurny.x.o again the Via
Kgtmtin run averlund through Tht-'ssidunica l«
Omstuntinople.

Scvttretl by the* great, mountiiifm from the towns

of Apuliii, Nnjilcr*, AmuUi,8idcrim, and the- western tuwnn yet had the «[4]a tjpi'u; they tradttd and cortt}ft|H>ndf?d with the grtutt ttupitn! of *tlw* EaKtern world, by tho Struitn of M«mirm and tlw *M$mn* 8e.tt. *Tlw* eoinugtf of the Clrceks iljrlf testified tti *tlw,* eoitmierrifi! primney nf